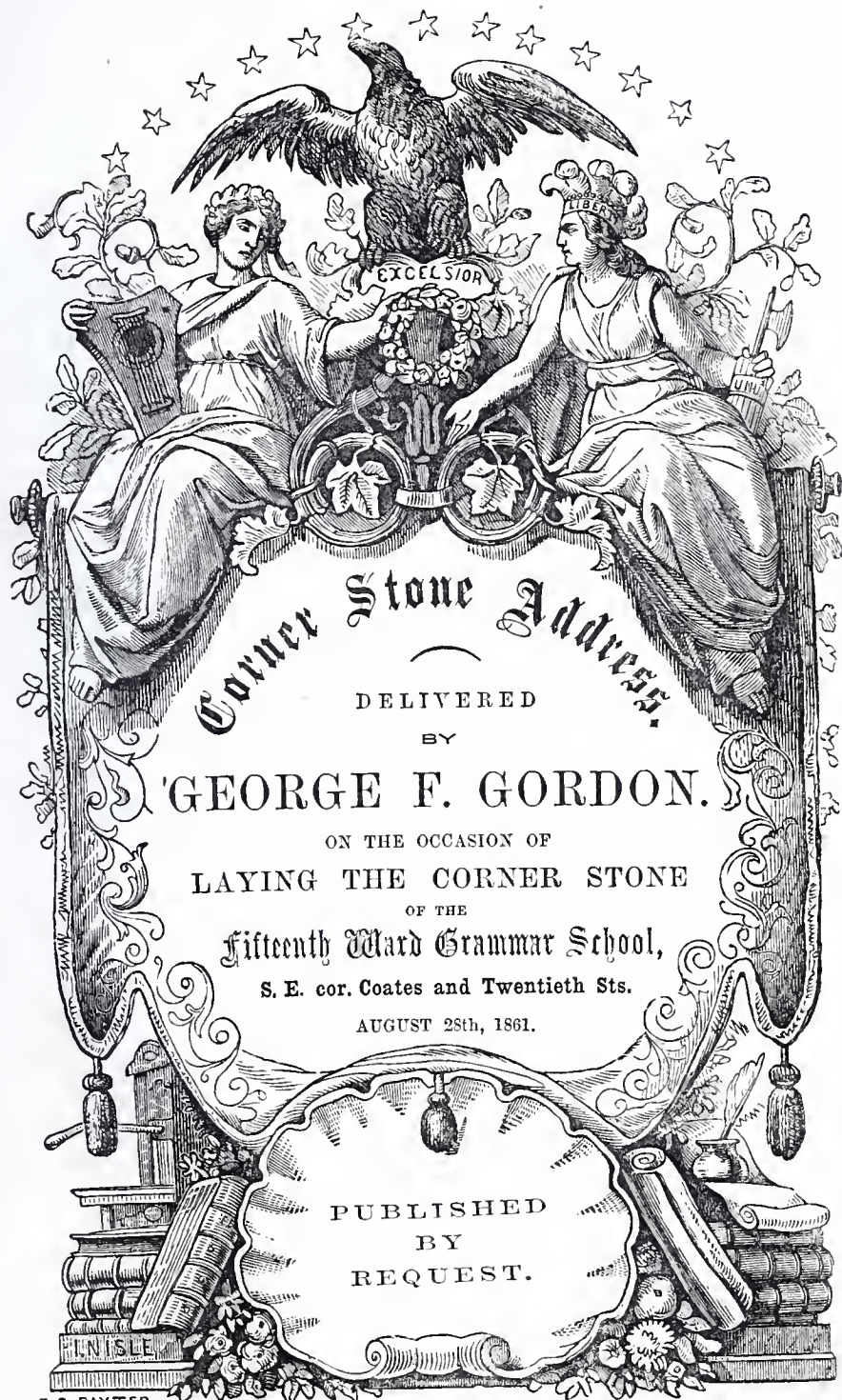



23/10



D. C. BAXTER.



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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

It is always pleasant to mark the footsteps of progress—especially educational progress. The following pages of programme and address, now published at the earnest request of many friends, are intended to mark a period, and an occasion long hoped for, and now realized.

The Board of Directors of the Fifteenth School Section having requested, by Resolution, that the addresses delivered on the occasion of laying the corner-stone of the New Grammar School House, should be procured and published; it was found, that the excellent addresses of Archibald McIntyre, Esq., and of Thomas Potter, Esq., and the eloquent address of Ex-Governor James Pollock, were extempore; and by some omission, in the haste of arrangements, they were not reported.

Attached to the address will be found an Appendix, which has been prepared with a good deal more labor than would be supposed by those not used to such work. It is hoped that it may prove useful for reference, as it contains the history of all the legislative detail, in connection with the erection of the Grammar School for the Fifteenth School Section.

There will be another short chapter of historic facts, relating more especially to the Building, and finishing of the same, which, may perhaps be given when the building is dedicated.

The address hereto annexed was hastily written for the occasion—and such as it is, and in answer to the request, it is respectfully presented to the Board of Directors of the Fifteenth School Section, and to the friends of *Public School education in our city*.

GEORGE F. GORDON.

The following invitation circular, was sent to Councils, and other friends of education.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it."—BIBLE.

Philada., August 24th, 1861.

To _____

Dear Sir:

*You are respectfully invited to be present
at the Ceremony of laying the Corner Stone of the*

Fifteenth Ward Grammar School,

COATES AND TWENTIETH STREETS,

On Wednesday Afternoon, August 28th, 1861.

Yours Truly,

George F. Gordon,

President School Board 15th Section.

Directors Fifteenth School Section.

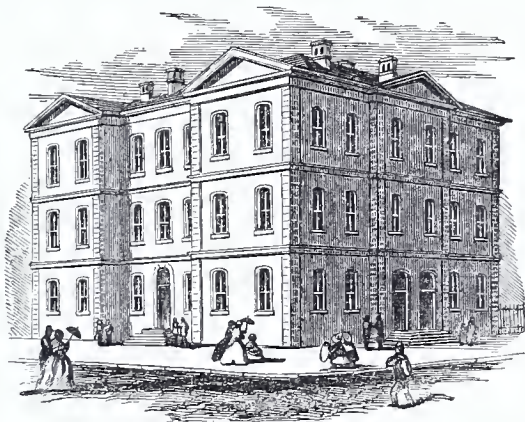
GEORGE F. GORDON, President.

THOMAS WOOD,
AMOR WALKER,
T. K. COLLINS,
JOSEPH N. PIERSOL,
E. H. HAWKINS,

HENRY HOFF,
JOHN W. CLARK,
CHARLES ADAMS,
A. G. HOFFMAN,
J. C. DUHADWAY.

J. M. HARMAN, Secretary.

The following is a correct copy of the Programme, as prepared by George F. Gordon, and circulated on the occasion, except the notes at the foot of the pages, which are now added :



FIFTEENTH WARD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

JOHN FRAZER, *Architect.*

JOHN KETCHAM, *Builder.*

GEORGE DIEMER, *Mason.*

ORDER OF EXERCISES

ON THE OCCASION OF

LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

OF THE

FIFTEENTH SCHOOL SECTION,

August 28th, 1861.

READING THE BIBLE—*By Rev. Thomas H. Stockton.**

SINGING—*To be conducted by Professor J. Bower.*

CHANT—*“Our Father in Heaven.”*

PRAYER—*By Rev. Thos. H. Stockton.*

LAYING THE CORNER STONE

BY

Hon. Alexander Henry, Mayor of Philadelphia.†

Theo. Cuyler, Esq., President of Select Council.‡ and

Chas. B. Trego, Esq., President of Common Council.§

* Rev. Dr. Stockton, who was in feeble health, did not arrive on the ground. The Rev. George A. Durborrow officiated in his place.

† Mayor Henry's engagements prevented his attendance.

‡ Mr. Cuyler had business engagements.

§ Mr. Chas. B. Trego did not come.

SINGING—"Open the Gates of Learning."

Fling wide the doors of Learning's hall,
And make its blessings free to all,
That children, here, may ever find
The purest treasures for the mind.

Here let the scholars happy sing,
While time flies on with rapid wing,

And pleasure find in Wisdom's way,
And honor seek in Virtue's ray.

To FREEDOM, LOVE, and radiant truth,
We lay this corner-stone for youth,
And raise, on high, the earnest prayer
That heaven may pour its blessing there.

ADDRESS—By Theo. Cuyler, Esq.

SINGING—"How Dear is this Day."

How dear is this day, we hail it with rejoicing;
Come, schoolmates all, come, at this call,
Come, join in our song.

Let joy and friendship here be found,
And cheerful, grateful hearts abound,
While in sweet harmony,
Our notes prolong.

Oh! here, schoolmates all, let every scene be
gilded,

With virtue, honor, love, and peace,
While fresh youth shall last,
That we in manhood's riper years
May not review our youth with tears,
But with fond memory,
'Till life shall be past.]

ADDRESS—By A. McIntyre, Esq.

SINGING—"Hail Columbia."

Hail, Columbia, happy land!
Hail, ye heroes, heaven-born band,
Who fought and bled in Freedom's cause,
Who fought and bled in Freedom's cause,
And, when the storm of war was gone,
Enjoyed the peace your valor won!
Let independence be our boast,
Ever mindful what it cost:
Ever grateful for the prize,
Let its altar reach the skies.

Firm, united, let us be,
Rallying round our liberty!
As a band of brothers joined,
Peace and safety we shall find.

Sound, sound the trump of fame!
Let Washington's great name
Ring through the world with loud applause!
Ring through the world with loud applause!
Let every clime to freedom dear
Listen with a joyful ear!
With equal skill, with godlike power
He governs in the fearful hour
Of horrid war, or guides with ease
The happier times of honest peace.

Firm, united, let us be,
Rallying round our liberty!
As a band of brothers joined,
Peace and safety we shall find.

ADDRESS—By Benjamin M. Dusenbery, Esq.*

SINGING—"Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean."

O Columbia! the gem of the ocean,
The home of the brave and the free,
The shrine of each patriot's devotion,
A world offers homage to thee.
Thy mandates make heroes assemble,
When Liberty's form stands in view;
Thy banners make tyranny tremble,
When borne by the red, white, and blue.

When war winged its wide desolation,
And threatened the land to deform,
The ark then of freedom's foundation,
Columbia, rode safe through the storm,
With her garlands of vict'ry round her,
When so proudly she bore her brave crew,
With her flag proudly floating before her,
The host of the red, white, and blue.

* Mr. Dusenbery was absent from the city.

ADDRESS—*By George F. Gordon, Esq.*

SINGING—"The American Flag."

When Freedom, from her mountain height,
Unfurled her standard to the air,
She tore the azure robe of night,
And set the stars of glory there!
She mingled with its gorgeous dyes
The milky baldric of the skies,
And striped its pure, celestial white
With streakings from the morning light!
Then, from her mansion in the sun,
She called her eagle-bearer down,
And gave into his mighty hand
The symbol of her chosen land!

Majestic monarch of the clond!
Who rear'st aloft thy regal form,
To hear the tempest trumping loud,
And see the lightning lances driven,
When strides the warrior of the storm,
And rolls the thunder-drum of heaven!
Child of the sun! to thee 'tis given
To guard the banner of the free—
To hover in the sulphur smoke,
To ward away the battle-stroke,
And bid its blendings shine afar,
Like rainbows on the clouds of war.

ADDRESS—*By Thomas Potter, Esq.*

SINGING—"The New School House."

Father of wisdom, bless the dome,
That liberal hands have made
So beautiful, for those who seek
Instruction's fostering aid:
And grant them here such wealth to gain
From learning's priceless lore,
As gilds the mind, though glittering gold
Fleets, to return no more.

Father of mercies, bless the band
That here, in youthful bloom,
Shall, lamb-like, by their teachers stand,
When we are in our tomb;
And may they, through thy Spirit's aid,
That holy knowledge prize,
Which wins the soul a glorious home,
When this frail body dies.

ADDRESS—*By Hon. James Pollock.*

SINGING—"The Star-Spangled Banner."

Oh, say, can you see by the dawn's early
light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's
last gleaming,—
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through
the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so
gallantly streaming,—
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs burst-
ing in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag
was still there?
Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet
wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the
brave?

Oh, thus be it ever when freemen shall
stand
Between their loved homes and the war's
desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may our
Heaven-rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and pre-
served us a nation:
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is
just,
And this be our motto—"IN GOD IS OUR
TRUST!"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph
shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the
brave.

SINGING—"Pilgrim Fathers."

SINGING—"America."

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the Pilgrim's pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring.

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees,
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake,
Let all that breathe partake,
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

BENEDICTION—By *Rev. George A. Durborrow.*

Board of Controllers of Public Schools, First School District of Pennsylvania, for 1861-62.

BENJAMIN M. DUSENBERY, *President.*

Ex-Officio Member of all Standing Committees.

ROBERT J. HEMPHILL, *Secretary.*

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. CHAS. W. ZIMMERMAN, | 9. JAMES FREEBORN, | 17. JOHN HUNSWORTH, |
| 2. JOHN HOLLAND, | 10. BENJ. M. DUSENBERY, | 18. GEORGE W. VAUGHAN, |
| 3. CHARLES WELSH, | 11. T. W. MARCHMENT, | 19. JOHN MOFFET, |
| 4. WILLIAM J. REED, | 12. EDWIN McCALLA, | 20. GEORGE W. STULL, |
| 5. THOMAS FITZGERALD, | 13. LEWIS BITTING, | 21. FRED'K VANDEGRIFT, |
| 6. CHARLES A. YEAGER, | 14. L. R. FLETCHER, | 22. JOHN RITTENHOUSE, |
| 7. GEORGE I. RICHE, | 15. THOMAS WOOD, | 23. WILLIAM J. CRANS, |
| 8. T. G. HOLLINGSWORTH, | 16. JOHN ROBBINS, JR., | 24. ISAAC LEECH, |
-

Directors, Fifteenth School Section.

GEO. F. GORDON, <i>President.</i>	JOSEPH N. PIERSOL,	CHARLES ADAMS,
THOMAS WOOD,	E. H. HAWKINS,	G. A. HOFFMAN,
AMOR WALKER,	HENRY L. HOFF,	J. C. DUHADWAY,
T. K. COLLINS,	JOHN W. CLARK,	J. M. HARMAN, <i>Secretary.</i>

Committee on Schools of City Councils.

A. McINTYRE, <i>Chairman,</i>	NICHOLAS WALLACE,	CHARLES H. CRAMP,
D. S. BEIDEMAN,	ALEXANDER H. DICKSON,	C. C. SERVER,
H. DAVIS,	MICHAEL BLYNN,	G. W. WILLIAMSON,
DANIEL M. FOX,	RICHARD G. LANING,	ROBERT BETHELL.

A D D R E S S

BY

GEORGE F. GORDON.

Delivered on the Occasion of Laying the Corner Stone of the Fifteenth Ward Grammar School Building, at Coates and Twentieth Streets; August 28th, 1861.

My Friends and Fellow Citizens:

The corner stone is set at last! To-day, as the friends of educational progress, we rejoice together. We celebrate with songs of gladness, the work begun. It moves and therefore we are glad.

According to ancient custom, a corner, or memorial stone* has been procured, worked, and set in due form. The box within the stone, contains the evidence of the nature, use, and character of the building to be erected here. In addition, it contains three other things—the BIBLE—the Constitution of the United States—and the flag of our Country!

What mighty and magnificent symbols are these, my friends? The BIBLE, as a Divine record, above the carnal touch of all forms of Sectarianism—symbolizes the faith of the whole American people in the living and true God of Israel! And, I do verily believe, that it is the living corner stone of

* The corner stone was laid at the northeast corner of the building, above ground, in due form by Archibald McIntyre, Chairman of the Committee on Schools, and George F. Gordon, President of the Fifteenth School Sectional Board.

our great American system of Public School education—the great Book of the people, whose author is God, and on whose pages are traced the imperishable words of those *higher laws*, which tell of just and equal government, and of human brotherhood, for the promulgation of which, the true heroes of the race have ever struggled, and conquered, though they died!

THE CONSTITUTION of our Country, symbolizes the written peculiarities of our government and free institutions, as contradistinguished from the old forms of despotism and unrighteous monarchy.

THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY—the old flag, with all the stripes and all the stars, rich with the precious memories of the Fathers of the Republic; the flag which floats on every ocean, the star-gemmed symbol of the brave and free; the celestial covering for the oppressed of all nations, the flag of Washington; the great unwritten constitution of the sovereign people, which they see, and feel, and understand, without explanation or debate, waving, rushing, dashing, blazing, through all American hearts, as lightning through the heavens; and like the divine faith in the human soul, feels the gladsome thrill of a pentecostal power, both of knowledge and of joy which no human tongue may yet utter.

And, to-day amid the joy and gladness of this hour, as parents, and children, as teachers, directors, and officers of the city government, we bow with reverence to the triune symbol of *the Bible—the Constitution—and the Flag of our Country!*

And, thus, we set the corner stone of this GRAMMAR SCHOOL Building of the Fifteenth School Section of

the City of Philadelphia—in faith, and hope, and love—*faith* in the God who hath made and preserves us a nation—*hope* in the institutions of our country, which foster, encourage, and perpetuate the grand system of American Christian Public School education—*love* for all the children of our city, state, nation and race.

The erection of a single School House, in itself considered, is perhaps a matter of no uncommon importance in these days. Yet, when we contemplate the Public School system of our city, and state, and nation, as a whole; when we grasp the full import of the word EDUCATION, as applied to the youth of our nation, and see in it a great principle of national life!—then, indeed, the erection of this building and of every building devoted to the education of the youth, is second in importance to no other work in which we can engage. For, if we look but around us, at no great distance, we find numbers of our youth in our own populous city, travelling unbridled by parental care the highways of juvenile depravity, adding hourly to the power and numbers of ignorance and crime. And, when we consider what we would be as a people, without School Houses—then is this corner stone a chief corner stone! and these walls, salvation walls! and every stone precious! And, when we remember the words of the Great Teacher—“*Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven,*”—there seems to me to be no impropriety in saying, that we have to-day set the corner stone of a State Church. For, here the congregations of youth will assemble, to be disciplined

into the ways of truth, justice, and equality; and these are the foundation germs from which spring out in flowing and radiant loveliness, wisdom, knowledge, and learning, in all their multifold variety of earthly and heavenly development.

On this occasion, there are many of us who have cause for special rejoicing. For, perhaps, never in the history of any one School House in this city, has there been manifested such faithful and untiring labor for successive years, against opposition and trifling delays in every variety; and I may say for myself, without egotism, that seldom have I worked for the attainment of any object with more unceasing energy; and now, that the building is commenced after a struggle of *seven* years, I do feel proud, as well for others, as for myself. It strengthens my faith in individual effort, and fixes my determination, humbly, but resolutely, to attempt still greater things for the youth of my day and generation.

And, again, I repeat, and place on the record, so that there may be no mistake hereafter—that we have this day laid the corner stone of a GRAMMAR SCHOOL BUILDING;—not a “Secondary” nor a “Primary,” nor both, or all three amalgamated; but a Grammar School, pure, simple, ample. This was what we asked for; this is what legislation has thus far given us; and this is what those who have labored for it are entitled to *have*, a Model Grammar School Building, alike the demand of the age and the pride of our city.

Records are useful things, and it seems to one of my turn of mind, very proper that the principal facts in the current history of the struggle for this

School House should be given. With some considerable labor, which however is pleasure to me, I have taken from the original documents the facts, to be found in the appendix to this address. These facts will show what part I took in the efforts to build a School House in the Fifteenth Ward. No sooner was I elected to Council, than I began the initial work of agitation for the general extension of educational advantages to the young throughout the whole city; and especially, for the erection of a Grammar School in our own Ward. My efforts were frequent, varied, persistent; I pushed Public School education in everywhere; not that I expected to succeed in every effort, but I did expect and did intend, by these efforts, to impress upon the public mind the necessity for more schools. Let facts tell the story of my success. The philosophic mind will not fail to discover the logical connection between my persisting efforts and the final triumph.

It is curious to contemplate the slow progress of the effort to build this School House, even after the loan bill was passed, which was on the first day of March, 1860. On the 19th of April, the chairman of the Committee on Schools presented the ordinance* to authorize the erection of this Grammar School, which passed May 3d, 1860.† And, yet,

* See Appendix to this address.

† Two things deserve notice in this Ordinance: one the amount appropriated \$15,000—a sum altogether inadequate; the other, taking the building of the School House out of the hands of the Board of Controllers, where it properly and legally belonged, and placing it under the “Commissioner of City Property,” and the “Committee on Schools,” of Councils.

with the loan, passed, and the special ordinance passed,—*one year and three months* have gone before the building is commenced.

On the 22d of July, 1861, a contract was entered into and signed, between the City and John Ketcham, builder, upon plans drawn by John Frazer, architect. On the 15th of July, the ground* was broken; on the 29th, the first stone† was laid. And now to-day, August 28th, 1861, we set the corner stone of the long-wished-for GRAMMAR SCHOOL. The public record may be known, but the trouble, toil, vexation, and unceasing labor of a few, in connection with the efforts to have this building erected, will never be known.

While the building is not altogether just what I desired, yet, it is a decided step to the front, and I shall not cease, to use my best endeavors to make it as complete as the circumstances will admit, under the false notions of economy entertained by many in office and out of it, both as to School buildings, and the scope of School studies.

I would like to have this Grammar School building more complete in all its appointments in view of the time, which it is to be hoped is fast advancing, when the Grammar Schools of the present day, will reach the grade and assume the position of the present High School! Not, to supersede nor stand in the place of that noble central attracting institution, whose triumphant results are to be found on sea and land, in the army and navy—in commerce, in manufactures, in art and in science, in the pulpit

* The first shovel full was taken up by Mr. G. F. Gordon.

† The first stone was laid by Mr. G. F. Gordon.

and on the forum. Everywhere its graduates sparkle as jewels in the gorgeous crown of our noble Philadelphia High School. But, when the present Grammar Schools are advanced to the High School grade—then let the Central High School be built in some beautiful suburban grove in grand proportions, commensurate with the requirements of the age as a *great People's College*—where all who *will*, may receive the delights and powers of a full, and free scientific education.

Nor, is this hope vain. Go back to 1818, when the State Assembly of Pennsylvania, passed “An Act for the education of children at public expense, within the City and County of Philadelphia.” And especially to the first and second annual reports of the Board of Controllers under that Act. We find, first a tremendous struggle against the whole movement; and when the Schools are organized we find in the whole city only 1,677 boys! and 1,591 girls!—making a total of 3,268 pupils!—maintained at an expense for the year 1819 of \$29,361; “of this sum \$9,843 defrayed *all the expenses for support of the Schools*, and the balance of \$19,517 98, is invested in real estate and furniture.”

Compare the whole city then, with even the Fifteenth Ward now! and the results are heart-gladdening and joyous.

We have in the Schools of the Fifteenth Ward—1,613 boys, 1,739 girls, making a total of 3,352—more than *the whole city* in 1818.

The following facts and figures, will give some idea of the detail of School matters in the Fifteenth School Section, for 1860.

Number of Schools,	16
Number of Pupils,	3,352
Number of Teachers,	59
Salaries of Teachers,	\$16,322 00
Rent of School Houses,	1,575 00
Books and Stationery,	1,653 00
A Ground rent,	100 00
Repairs,	206 00
Coal,	622 82
Stoves,	131 26
Housekeeper's Salaries,	1,489 79
Printing,	96 00
Furniture	794 00
Night-Schools	576 00
Total,	<hr/> \$23,618 18

The School buildings owned by the city in this section may be valued as follows:—

Livingston School building 23d street, above Callowhill,	\$20,000 00
Francisville School building 17th street, above Coates,	15,000 00
Furniture in all the Schools,	5,500 00
	<hr/> \$40,500 00

And, this new School House, the beginning of which we this day celebrate, will, when finished, including ground and furniture, cost about \$36,000, making a total value of School property in this School Section, for the year 1861, of seventy-six thousand five hundred dollars, (\$76,500!)

And, when we extend the golden links of this educational chain around the whole city, and state, and nation!—how grand and solid and imposing the system becomes—so full of virtues, so full of hopes!

In our city we have the following figures for 1860:—

Number of Pupils, boys,	.	.	.	32,486
Number of Pupils, girls,	.	.	.	36,044
				<hr/> 63,530
Number of Teachers,	.	.	.	1,197
Number of Schools—Primary,	.	.	.	170
“ “ Unclassified,	.	.	.	50
“ “ Secondary,	.	.	.	59
“ “ Grammar,	.	.	.	54
				<hr/> 333
Cost for Salaries of Teachers,	.	.	.	\$337,603 00
Cost for Books, Stationery, &c.,	.	.	.	142,626 00

As it may be interesting to the penurious souls who study economy in educational matters, at the expense of progress and the system, I give the following comparative facts, showing the cost per pupil, per annum, in this city:—

For Tuition,	.	.	.	.	\$4 99
For Books and Stationery,	.	.	.	.	62
For Incidentals,	.	.	.	.	82
					<hr/> \$6 43

Now compare this with the annual cost per pupil in other cities:—

New York,	.	.	.	.	\$15 33
Boston,	.	.	.	.	15 91
Baltimore,	.	.	.	.	10 82
Cincinnati,	.	.	.	.	16 96
St. Louis,	.	.	.	.	17 34
Chicago,	.	.	.	.	12 93
Buffalo,	.	.	.	.	13 93

These figures clearly give Philadelphia the precedence in economy. But, I for *one* am among the number of those who think *mere* economy in matters of education, no cause for rejoicing.

When we add to our city School System the following figures* from the State, we see a grand educational army marching against the legions of ignorance, with the steady tread of victorious hosts, whose, liberating, elevating, evolving mission, is to unshackle the minds, to invigorate, adorn and sanctify the intellectual powers of the whole people,—ever rising, and ripening and blooming, and clustering and fragranting, reaching ever up to the radiant altitudes of a redeeming perfection.

Here, I might conclude my address to you; but alas! I cannot put out of sight the current history of the times. Here are hundreds of happy faces; all the surroundings of this place and occasion are peaceful, yet, behold!—War!—civil War! spreads its dark clouds in our very midst! Why? A band of satanic traitors, as yet confined to the southern portion of our country, have, after years of maturation, at last taken up arms against the government of their *own Fathers!* They have

* STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Number of Schools in the State, . . .	11,577
“ Pupils “ . . .	585,669
“ Teachers “ . . .	13,003

COST.

Total cost of public education in the State, including the City, . . . \$2,619,377 03

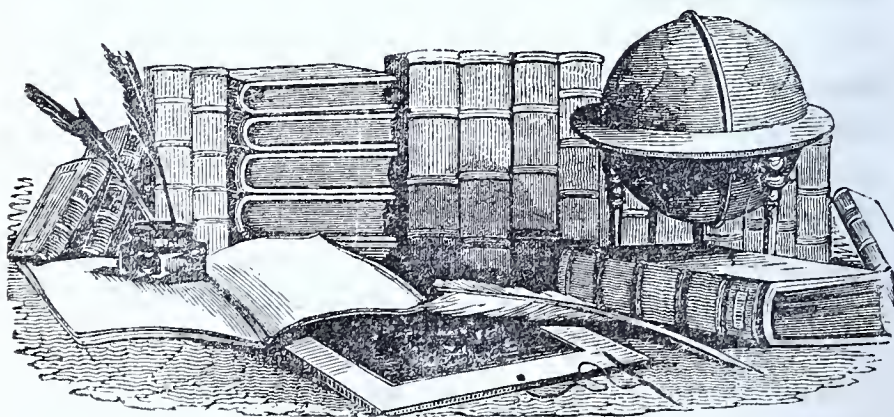
Two million, six hundred and nineteen thousand three hundred and seventy-seven dollars!

attempted to strike the Eagle-Republic at the heart—they have trampled upon our star-gemmed symbol of the brave and free. They have passed that “Rubicon” where all beyond is darkness, despair, and oblivion! Hark! even now the great North opens but a *little* the portal-gates of freedom and lo! half a million American braves with bounding hearts and double quickstep, shake the earth with the solid tread of men, who praise the *power which preserves us a nation*—whose trust is in God!—who remember Washington!—lo! those are they, who go forth amid the blending aroma of smiles and tears, and prayers—to crush, to deliver over to eternal night the hydra-headed traitors, who are begotten of the “*sum of all villanies*,” and who with that barbarous villany must be swept from the land. The traitors are falling now! from the jewelled battlements of the Union government of Washington, and they will fall, into the “bottomless pit” of everlasting shame and contempt—where I hope the rays of resurrection will only quicken and intensify the blazing, surging, scorching torments of a traitor’s eternal life!—every thought stinging with the indescribable torments of traitors seeking in vain for death, and finding only intenser life!—with all the senses, and every vein, and nerve, and pulsation of thought or feeling, trembling with unceasing million-diversified, tormenting utterances of TRAITOR! TRAITOR!! TRAITOR!!!

The scenes of this hour, as they present themselves around this corner stone of a Public School, are grand, by contrast. While treason has paralyzed one half of the country; and a million of armed men

face each other on the great issues of national American freedom and existence, we to-day build a Public School House! This is our civilization! This is our hope. These are our magazines, from which the armies of the future are to draw supplies of knowledge, which it is to be sincerely trusted will enable them to rise above all necessity for the strifes of physical force.

The educated masses must rise—will onward move against every antagonism. By this power wars must cease, and domestic strife and desolation be ended. For, the great army of educated mind will move onward and struggle upward to meet the coming Prince and Redeemer of the race, who will *transfer* us from the Primary Schools of the present conditions, to the pearl-gated, golden-floored, jewel-sparkling walls, and the throne-radiance of magnificent college mansions in the eternal future!



A P P E N D I X.

So much has been said about the new Grammar School in the Fifteenth Ward, that I thought it best, even at considerable labor, to collate the facts, and present them in a form easy of access and future reference.—*G. F. Gordon.*

A.

COMMON COUNCIL RECORD.

In May, 1855, Mr. George F. Gordon was elected a member of Common Council from the Fifteenth Ward. On the 18th of October he presented an ordinance entitled—“*An Ordinance to authorize a loan for the purpose of maintaining the Public Schools of the City of Philadelphia—for \$500,000* ; see Appendix 66—*Common Council Journal*, page 658. December 13th Mr. Gordon presented to Council another ordinance entitled “*An Ordinance to make an appropriation to the Controllers of Public Schools of the First School District of Pennsylvania, for the erection of a School House in the Fifteenth Ward,*”—*Common Council Journal*, page 136, Appendix, 49. It provided for the erection of a building on a lot Northeast corner of Center and Eighteenth streets, at the cost of \$14,000, which was not passed. February 8th, 1856, Mr. Hiram Miller presented a petition from the Directors of the Fifteenth Ward School Section, “asking Councils to make an appropriation to erect a School House and take up a lot for said purpose”—*laid on the table.*—*Common Council Journal*, 1856. page 321. The annual appropriation for School purposes being under consideration, February 8th, 1856, Hiram Miller moved to add—“*For a New Grammar School in Fifteenth Ward, twelve thousand dollars \$12,000.*” The vote was as follows :

YEAS—Messrs. Duane, Dyer, Freeman, Fuller, Gibson, Gordon, King, Knorr, Manuel, Marsh, Miller, Roberts, Sandgran, Vanhorn, Vaux, Welsh.—16.

NAYS—Messrs. Baird, Baker, A. J., Baker, A., Barton, Berry, Binder, Bishop, Brouse, Bumm, Butler, Craven, Davenport, Dunk, Gay, Green, Hancock, Hand, Hassinger, Henry, Hopple, Mascher, Miller, J. W., Parker, Patterson, Penrose, Roberts, T. J. Steelling, Stevenson, Taylor, Willets, Hacker, *President.* Yeas 16—Nays 31.

March 3d, "An Ordinance to authorize a loan to pay claims against the corporation," being under consideration, Mr. Gordon moved to add "\$50,000 for the erection of new school houses"—not agreed to,—*Common Council Journal*, 1856, page 435. April 17th, 1856, Mr. Gordon presented to Council a bill entitled "An Ordinance providing for the erection of a School House in the Fifteenth Ward, &c., &c.," *Common Council Journal*, page 584—*Appendix*, 189. This ordinance provided for the dedication of lots 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, on Coates, Twentieth and North streets; and for the sale of adjoining lots belonging to the city for cash or on ground rent and erecting the School House with the proceeds. It did not pass.

From May, 1856, until May, 1858, Mr. Gordon was not a member of Councils, and nothing for the school cause of any importance was effected, as the following record for two years will show. From May, 1856, to May, 1857, Mr. Thomas Potter was chairman of the Committee on Schools. June 12th, Mr. Charles Vanhorn offered a resolution embracing the substance of the ordinance presented by Mr. Gordon at the previous Council for the erection of a School House in the Fifteenth Ward. The Resolution was referred to the Committee on Schools of which Mr. Potter was chairman, and never reported upon,—*Common Council Journal*, page 109. November 6th, Mr. Hagner presented a petition from the School Directors of the Fifteenth School Section for the erection of a Grammar School—referred to the Committee on Schools,—*Common Council Journal*, page 538. October 16th, 1857, Mr. Thomas Potter resigned his seat in Common Council; Benjamin Burnell died; the remaining two members Messrs. Hagner and Vanhorn voted against building New School Houses,—*Common Council Journal*, page 285. February 16th, on motion of Robert V. Barber of the Eighteenth Ward, to add to the annual appropriation bill for School purposes, \$30,000 for the erection of New School Houses. Mr. Vanhorn voted in favor and Mr. Hagner *against* the motion,—*Common Council Journal*, page 288.

January 12th, 1858, Mr. H. T. King of the Thirteenth Ward, introduced an amendment to the annual appropriation for School purposes, devoting the State appropriation (the city's share) for the purpose of erecting New School Houses; and Messrs. Burnell, Vasey, G. W. Keller, E. H. Faulkner, members of Common Council from Fifteenth Ward voted against it,—*Common Council Journal*, 1858, page 153.

May 10th, 1858, Mr. Gordon was again elected a member of Common Council, with Messrs. Robert Hutchinson, Thomas Potter, Hiram Miller and J. J. Kersey from the Fifteenth Ward. This year Mr. Gordon was appointed on the Committee on Schools. June 17th, Mr. Gordon moved to amend a bill to "authorize a temporary loan"—by adding a section authorizing

\$40,000, to be borrowed temporarily (and replaced by the State appropriation), for the erection of a Grammar School in the Fifteenth Ward,—*Common Council Journal*, 1858, page 155. Not agreed to. Same date, Mr. Gordon read in place a bill entitled “An Ordinance to provide a lot of ground for the erection of a Grammar School in the Fifteenth Ward”—ordered to be printed,—*Common Council Journal*, page 163. August 12th Mr. Gordon read in place and presented to Council a bill entitled “An Ordinance to authorize a Public School loan fund”—and moved to consider the same—Messrs Gordon and Hutchinson voted in favor,—and Messrs Hiram Miller, Thomas Potter, and J. J. Kersey voted against it,—*Common Council Journal*, page 278. On motion of H. Miller, the bill was referred to the Committee on Finance, who never reported on the bill. On the same date, the “Ordinance to authorize a loan to construct certain Culverts” being under consideration in Common Council. Mr. Gordon moved the following—“Provided that the sum of (\$100,000) one hundred thousand dollars, being half the sum herein named, be and hereby is specially appropriated for the building of Public School Houses as shall hereafter be provided for by ordinance.” The President (Mr. Trego) decided the amendment out of order. Mr. Gordon appealed from the decision. The President was sustained,—*Common Council Journal*, page 283. August 26th, Mr. Gordon moved to proceed to consider the Ordinance to provide a lot of ground for the erection of a Grammar School in the Fifteenth Ward—not agreed to,—*Common Council Journal*, page 328. Again, September 2nd, Mr. Gordon moved to proceed to consider the Ordinance providing for a lot for a Grammar School in the Fifteenth Ward—which was agreed to, and the bill was read three times and passed; and thus the first substantial step was gained, after many efforts and much toil,—*Common Council Journal*, page 350. Select Council concurred May 5th, 1859,—*Select Council Journal*, page 124. September 30th Mr. Gordon presented to Councils an Ordinance for the purpose of establishing and maintaining Public Night Drawing Schools—not agreed to,—*Common Council Journal*, page 455. December 2nd, a Resolution to publish a loan bill to pay road damages, being under consideration, Mr. Gordon moved to publish also the bill presented by him August 12th to authorize a Public School fund. The President (Mr. Trego) decided the motion out of order. Mr. Gordon then read a bill in place entitled—“An Ordinance to authorize a loan to pay for the erection of Public School Houses in the City of Philadelphia”—amount \$250,000. Mr. Potter moved to reduce the amount to \$100,000, and succeeded in thus reducing the sum more than half. The Resolution to publish was then adopted, and the ordinance published four weeks according to law before being acted upon,—*Common Council Journal*, page 79—Ordinance, Common Council, *Appendix*, No 28. This was

the first loan bill for the erection of New School Houses ever presented in the Councils of the City of Philadelphia.

March 31st, 1859, Mr. Gordon moved to proceed to consider the ordinance previously presented by him, entitled "An Ordinance to authorize a loan for the erection of Public School Houses in the City of Philadelphia," which was agreed to. On the final passage of the bill the yeas and nays were as follows :

Messrs. Baird, Brenan, Bobb, Bowker, Brown, Bullock, Case, Cattell, Cooley, Cooper, Day, Dennis, Doerr, Dickinson, Eckfeldt, Ellis, Fish, Fisher, Fidler, French, Gamble, Gay, Gheen, Gillingham, Gordon, Hass, Hacker, Harbert, Harmer, Heins, Hodgdon, House, Hutchinson, Jones, Kelley, Kersey, Ketcham, Krider, Luther, Manuel, Mascher, McClean, McDonough, Megary, Miller, Geo. B., Miller Hiram, Mingle, Moyer, Nippes, Potter, Pugh, Riley, Roates, Rothermel, Rubican, Server, Schock, Simons, Smedley, Thompson, Uber, Wagner, Welsh, Wetherill, Wildey, Wister, Trego, *President*.

YAYS—Mr. Steeling.

Yeas, 66. Nays, 1.

So passed the bill which many said it was impossible to pass, yet Mr. Gordon had the satisfaction of passing the bill in Common Council before leaving that body as a member, which occurred two months after. That loan bill, for reasons which have since developed themselves,* did not pass the Select Council, as the following vote in Select Council, May 5th, will show :

YEAS—Messrs. Bringham, Cornman, Cuyler, Davis, Foster, Leidy, Loughlin, McIntyre, Thompson.

NAYS—Messrs. Beideman, Bradford, Kline, Neal, Read, Whar-ton.

Yeas, 9. Nays, 6.

So the bill fell—a two-third vote being required by law.

A new Council entered upon its duties May 9th, 1859. Mr. Gordon was not returned to Council, but was elected one of the Clerks of Common Council. He at once prepared a New School Loan Bill, but it was not presented until September 22nd, 1859, by the Committee on Finance,—*Common Council Journal*, page 276.

February 9th, 1860, Mr. Potter presented a printed memorial† from the Fifteenth School Section relative to a Grammar School which was read, and Mr. Potter moved to proceed to consider the loan bill presented to Councils September 22nd, 1859. The bill was then passed to a third reading and postponed.

February 16th, the "Ordinance to authorize a loan for the

* The Ordinance being a very popular one, it was thought it would give Mr. Gordon too much influence.

† See Appendix, page 26.

erection of Public School Houses in the City of Philadelphia," was called up and passed by the following vote :

YEAS—Messrs. Baird, Bassler, Bobb, Bowker, Bowers, Brooks, Case, Cassin, Cattell, Colhoun, Craig, Creswell, Dennis, Dunk, Dyer, Dickson, Eckfeldt, Foulon, Gamble, Garvin, Haas, Hacker, Harper, Hazel, Heins, Hodgdon, House, Housemen, Howard, Johnson, Justice, Kerr, Leigh, Loughlin, Malone, Manuel, McClean, Ninesteel, Oat, O'Neill, Pomeroy, Potter, Pugh, Randolph, Riley, Simons, Sterr, Stewart, Stinger, Stratton, Summers, Thomas, D. G., Thomas, W. B., Thompson, Tyson, Uber, Waite, Ward, Warner, Watson, Wister, Trego, *President*.

NAYS—Laning, and Andrew Miller.

Yeas 62. Nays 2.

So the bill passed,—*Common Council Journal*, page 180.

Select Council, February 23d. The School Loan Bill was considered, and on agreeing to the first section, the vote was as follows :

YEAS—Bartolett, Benton, Bradford, Cuyler, Enos, Jones, Leidy, Loughlin, McIntyre, Neal, Parker, Peters, Thompson, Cornman, *President*.—14.

NAYS—Drayton, Ford, Wetherill.—3.

The bill was then referred to the Committee on Schools of Select Council,—*Select Council Journal*, page 128.

March 1st, the Committee on Schools were discharged from the further consideration of the bill, and it was considered and passed as follows :

YEAS—Bartolett, Bradford, Bringhurst, Cuyler, Davis, Drayton, Enos, Jones, Leidy, Lemen, Loughlin, McIntyre, Neal, Norman, Parker, Peters, Read, Smedley, Thompson, Wetherill, Cornman, *President*.—21.

NAYS—None.


April 19th, Mr. McIntyre, Chairman of Committee on Schools, presented an Ordinance authorizing the erection of a School House in the Fifteenth Ward, which was read a first time.

April 26th, the Ordinance was again considered, and after being amended was passed by the following vote :

YEAS—Bartolett, Beidemen, Benton, Bradford, Davis, Enos, Ford, Jones, McIntyre, Parker, Peters, Wetherill, Cornman, *President*.—13.

NAYS—Loughlin, Read, Thompson,—3,—*Select Council Journal*, pages 198, 199, 200.

Common Council, May 3d, Mr. Potter called up the Ordinance as passed by Select Council, which was passed. The Yeas and Nays are not recorded,—*Common Council Journal*, page 296.

 John J. Kersey voted against paying for the iron railing at the Francisville School building after the work was done,—*Common Council Journal*, 1859, page 373.

B.

AN ORDINANCE

To provide a lot of ground for the erection of a Grammar School in the Fifteenth Ward.

SECTION I. The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia do ordain, That lots Nos. 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, fronting on Coates, Twentieth and North Streets, as per plan of property described in an Ordinance passed March 5th, 1856, entitled An ordinance to authorize the sale of a certain lot of ground in the Fifteenth Ward, and to provide for the erecting of a Hospital building, with part of the proceeds thereof, are hereby reserved from sale, and dedicated for the erection of a Public School thereon.—Approved May 24th, 1859,—*Ordinances of 1859, page 252.*

C.

To the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia.

The Memorial of the citizens of the Fifteenth Ward respectfully sheweth :

That at a meeting of the citizens of the Fifteenth Ward, held for the purpose of taking into consideration the evils and great inconveniences they are suffering, from the inadequacy of the means provided for the public instruction of their children, and particularly from the want of a suitable Grammar School, the undersigned were appointed, a committee of twenty-five to convey to your honorable bodies their views and feelings on the subject.

In pursuance of this duty, they would respectfully represent :

That for several years past the school accommodations of this Ward have been wholly inadequate to its urgent and increasing necessities,—necessities so generally and fully recognized, as early as 1853, that an appropriation for the erection of a Grammar School building was made by the Board of Controllers, but the consummation of which was prevented by the Act of Consolidation, passed shortly after.

By reference to the Report of the Board of Controllers, it will be seen, that since that time (1853) the school accommodations have been but slightly augmented, while the number of pupils attending the schools of the Ward has increased from 2,441, in 1854, to 3,292 in 1860. Nor does this exhibit show the whole increase ; as it is well known to the committee, that, from the want of requisite accommodations, large numbers of the children of the Ward are now attending schools in adjoining Wards.

During the period just referred to, the taxable inhabitants have increased from about 4,000 in 1854, to about 6,000 at the present time, and the value of the taxable property from four millions in 1854, to seven millions at this date.

The present condition of some of the Primary and Secondary Schools is most deplorable. From their dampness, deprivation of light, and want of ventilation, as well as their crowded condition, the committee are of the judgment an incalculable amount of injury is sustained, not only mentally, but also physically, to the teachers and pupils.

The committee do not feel it to be their duty to describe minutely the various disadvantages to which these and kindred evils subject the children of the Ward—further than they bear upon the object intrusted to them, *the erection* of a suitable Grammar School on the lot appropriated by the city for that purpose, at Coates and Twentieth streets,—or they might adduce much relative to the unfitness of the rooms used for school purposes.

The Livingston Grammar School, the only one in the Ward, and the only school building, with one exception, in the district, owned by the city, is most unfavorably located near Fairmount, at the extreme southwestern part of the Ward, and is surrounded by manufactories and railroads. The nearest Grammar School is distant at least one mile from it, and the residences of those living in the northeastern portion of the section are nearly two miles from the school, in consequence of which and the inadequacy of the accommodations, many pupils, desiring a liberal education, are obliged to seek admission into the Grammar Schools of other Wards; as an evidence of which it may be stated, that of the *forty-five* students, as per report of High School Committee, residents of this Ward, now attending the Central High School not one was admitted from our Grammar School, attending which at this time there are 220 boys and 202 girls.

The Committee would invite attention to the Report of the Committee of the Board of Controllers to prepare an Estimate of the Public Schools for the year 1857, in which, on page 10, will be found :

“The Directors of the Fifteenth Section state, that there is immediate and very pressing necessity for having erected in said Section a first-class building for school purposes, for the following reasons, viz. :

“Because the location of our Grammar School is such, that parents, who can possibly provide for the education of their children at any other place, will not send them to this school, it being surrounded by large manufacturing establishments, the stench from which is sometimes almost intolerable, and by some considered quite prejudicial to health. Moreover, the vicinity is continually infested by gangs of rowdy boys, who almost daily abuse the children going to and returning from school, so that parents in order to protect them from serious personal injuries, are frequently obliged to accompany them. So serious are the evils thus referred to, that parents having a tender regard for their children either keep them from entering the school when fully prepared in

the Secondaries, or send them from one to two miles to school in other Wards, leaving our Grammar School—which, in a central and a respectable part of the Section, would be crowded with pupils comparing favorably, morally and intellectually, with those of any other Grammar School of the city—to be filled by refuse materials, while the better portion is constantly increasing the numbers and the reputation of schools in quite distant, but genteel, locations.”

The objections to the location of the present Grammar School, so truthfully and forcibly stated by the School Directors and Controllers in 1857, have not only not diminished since then, but have increased, and are increasing with the increase of the population of the Ward.

The building now used for a Grammar School having been originally a church, is without the necessary class-rooms, and other facilities, the absence of which renders it but illy adapted to the purposes for which it is now appropriated. The basement of this building, the floor of which is about five feet beneath the pavement, with water continually under it, often on a level therewith, and occasionally overflowing it, is occupied by nearly 300 children. The dampness and want of proper light and ventilation form a sufficient reason why the use of it, for purposes other than that of storage—(it being needed therefor in the absence of a cellar)—should be discontinued.

The erection of a suitable Grammar School building as proposed and the use of the present Grammar School building as a Primary or Secondary School, would enable the School Board to dispense with rooms, for which an annual rental of about \$750 is now paid into one of which, the basement of a church building, 52 feet by 43 feet, lighted and ventilated by four small windows, there are now crowded 462 pupils. A due regard for the health of the teachers and the pupils of this school would, the committee believe, warrant the proper authorities in abandoning it for school purposes, even should no provision be made for the better accommodation of the children.

The fact, already recited, that of the *forty-five* students of the ward, now in the Central High School, not *one* of whom was admitted from the Grammar School of the Ward, is of itself sufficient to show that this Grammar School does not supply its wants. No less does it show, that large numbers of the children of the Ward are forced, from the want of a suitable school building, in a central location, to intrude themselves upon the schools of other Wards, adjoining or near, and not unfrequently in violation of the school regulations and rules, to the serious disadvantage of the school-going children of these Wards.

From the last report of the Board of Controllers it is stated, that more than three thousand children are awaiting admission to the schools, many of them from the Wards near or adjoining the

Fifteenth. The erection of the proposed Grammar School building, would, in the opinion of the committee, cause the children of the Fifteenth Ward to leave the schools of other Wards, and return to those of their own, thus making room for the children of those Wards, who are frequently kept out by the intrusion. In regard to the Tenth and Fourteenth Wards this is particularly the case, as it is known, that many of the children of the Fifteenth Ward are in the schools of these Wards, while there are about 500 of their children waiting admission.

This condition of the Public Schools of the Ward is not a new one, nor of recent growth. As has been already stated, the Board of Controllers, in view of the pressing wants of the Ward made an appropriation for the erection of a first-class building for a Grammar School. Since then they have, annually, in all these respects, directed the attention of the City Councils to the subject.

The evils so frequently reported by the Board of Controllers, and those referred to elsewhere in this Memorial, have been increasing in proportion as the population and children of the Ward have increased, until they have become so intolerable as to arouse the citizens of the Ward to the present effort for their removal.

The committee cannot but believe that this plain statement of the facts of the case, is all that is necessary to insure the prompt, efficient and favorable action of your honorable bodies.

The citizens of the Fifteenth Ward have no desire to make invidious comparisons, nor to complain of the superior school accommodations in other parts of the city. They cannot, however, be blind to the fact, that while most of the Wards, many with fewer taxable inhabitants, and smaller amount of taxable property,—have successfully established *one* or *more* Grammar Schools, the citizens of the Fifteenth Ward,—a Ward that ranks nearly equal to the highest in taxables, and in the number of its children attending the Public Schools,—are without a Grammar School, which, from reasons assigned, can be at all available to the large proportion of those children who would be benefited by the erection of a commodious building in a more central situation.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

WM. H. KERN,
GEORGE F. GORDON,
CHAS. BROWN,
HIRAM MILLER,
JOSIAH L. HAINES,
WM. T. SNODGRASS,
CHARLES V. HAGNER,
WM. MATTHEWS,
GEO. STURGES,
JOS. R. BOLTON,
LEWIS L. HOUP, ^T,
JACOB UMSTEAD,

JOSEPH CULBERTSON,
GEO. H. MOORE,
JOHN R. MATLACK,
D. R. ERDMAN,
JOS. M. HANCOCK,
R. P. GILLINGHAM,
JABEZ C. DU HADAWAY,
JON. J. KERSEY,
R. C. BRODIE,
DR. W. W. BURNELL,
H. G. LEISENRING,
THOMAS BIRCH.

Philadelphia, January, 1860.

D

AN ORDINANCE

Authorizing the erection of a certain School House in the Fifteenth Ward, and to make an appropriation therefor.

SECTION I. The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia do ordain, That the Controllors of Public Schools are hereby directed to advertise for plans, and full specifications under said plans, for the erection of a School House in the Fifteenth Ward on lots now owned by the City of Philadelphia, and dedicated for said purposes by Ordinance approved May 24th, 1859. Said advertisement to state that the cost of said Grammar School House shall not exceed fifteen thousand dollars, including all expenses for plans, superintendence, &c., &c. And that nothing shall be paid for any plan not approved by said Controllors, in conjunction with the Committee on Schools of Councils of Philadelphia.

SECTION II. That upon the approval of the plan as provided in the first section hereof, the Commissioner of City Property shall advertise for proposals for the erection of said School House according to the plan, and the specifications thereof, and the same shall be considered by him in the presence of the Committee on Schools. The contract to be awarded to the lowest bidder who shall give bond with one surety in the sum of \$15,000, conditioned to faithfully perform the conditions of the contract.

SECTION III. That the work herein provided to be done shall be performed under the superintendence of the author of the plan, who shall receive a commission of three per cent. on the cost of construction, which shall be in full of all compensation for the plan, specification and superintendence; *Provided*, That one half of said compensation shall not be made until the completion of said School House, and it shall be accepted by the Board of Controllors on behalf of the City.

SECTION IV. The contract for the construction of said School House shall be drawn by the City Solicitor, and payments on account of said work shall be made monthly in proportions to be determined upon by the Committee on Schools; *Provided*, That the last payment shall not be made until the architect shall certify that said construction is in entire accordance with the specifications.

SECTION V. That the sum of fifteen thousand dollars out of the proceeds of a loan created by Ordinance approved March 19th, 1860, be and the same is hereby appropriated to execute the intent and purpose of this ordinance.

SECTION VI. That upon the completion of said School House the same shall be under the superintendence of the Controllors of Public Schools.

SECTION VII. Warrants for the appropriation herein made shall be drawn by the Commissioner of City Property. *Ordinances of 1860, pages 238, 239, 240.*

E.

The following is the advertisements referred to in the foregoing ordinance.

NOTICE is hereby given, that plans and full specifications for the erection of a first class Grammar School House in the Fifteenth Ward will be received by the undersigned, at the office of the Board of Controllers, Southeast corner SIXTH and ADELPHI streets, until MONDAY, the EIGHTH day of October, at 12 o'clock, M. The said School House to be erected on a lot of ground situated at the Southeast corner of Twentieth and Coates streets, 118 feet $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches front on Coates street, 69 feet $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches on Twentieth street, 129 feet $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches on North street, and 86 feet $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches on the east line to Coates street. The building to be three stories in height, to accommodate one thousand pupils, and not to cost over fifteen thousand dollars.

The architect of the plan approved to superintend the erection of said School House, and receive for his services three per cent on the cost of the building.

In consequence of an error in the former advertisement for plans, &c., of the above building, the exact description of the lot not being given, hence the necessity of the above notice.

By order of the Committee on Property,

ROBERT J. HEMPHILL,
Secretary Controllers of Public Schools.

Under the above advertisement a number of plans were presented by—GEORGE S. BETHELL, JOHN FRASER, G. RUNGE, JOSEPH M. HANCOCK, JOHN STUART, COLLINS & AUTENREATH.

The Controllers adopted the plan of Geo. S. Bethell; the Committee on Schools of Councils adopted the plan of John Fraser, which was finally adopted and proposals advertised for as follows :

 DEPARTMENT OF CITY PROPERTY,
OFFICE, SECOND STORY, GIRARD BANK, NORTH SIDE.
Philadelphia, February 15th, 1861.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this office until the first day of March, 1861, at 3 o'clock, P. M., for the erection of a SCHOOL HOUSE in the FIFTEENTH WARD, according to the Plans and Specifications of John Frazer, Architect; the cost of said School House not to exceed FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, including all expenses for Plans, Specifications, &c.

The bids will be opened, and the contract awarded, in the presence of the Committee on Schools, to the lowest and best bidder who will be required to give a bond with one approved security, in the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of the contract.

P. S.—The Plans and Specifications can be examined and other information obtained at the office of John Fraser, Architect, No. 112 South Fourth Street.

J. M. CHRISTOPHER,
Commissioner of City Property.

Under the foregoing advertisement the following proposals were received.

FIRST PROPOSALS.

N A M E.	Bid.	Amount.
Charles D. Supplee.....	1	\$22,742 00
“ “ “ ..	2	20,993 00
Joseph M. Hancock.....	1	22,480 00
James M. Stewart.....	1	18,970 82
Bullock & Rush.....	1	25,000 00
Frank McManus.....	1	17,770 00
W. W. Cross.....	1	21,250 00
W. P. Henderson.....	1	22,265 62
John Ketcham.....	1	18,940 00
“ “ Sand Stone.....	2	15,500 00
“ “ Stone Rough-east.....	3	14,500 00

None of the above proposals being under the specifications as low as the appropriation made by Councils, no contract was awarded.

A supplemental specification was, after some weeks of delay, made out and sent to all the parties who proposed in the first instance. The following was the result:

SECOND PROPOSALS.

Name.	Amount.
W. W. Cross.....	\$24,450 00
Joseph M. Hancock.....	20,396 00
Charles D. Supplee.....	19,608 00
James M. Stewart.....	16,870 00
Frank McManus.....	18,300 00
John Ketcham.....	18,400 00


No bid coming within the appropriation at this second bidding the contract was not awarded.

THIRD PROPOSALS.

After further delay and a further cutting up of the original specifications, so as to bring them within the appropriation, the following bids were received:

James M. Stewart,	\$14,935 83
John Ketcham,	14,520 00

The contract was now awarded to John Ketcham.

 The plan pursued by the Committee of Councils, in awarding the contract, does not give satisfaction to builders generally, and is objectionable in many respects.